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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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17 January 1952

PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PSB WEAPONS INFORMATION GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

(PANEL "D")

Problem

1. To obtain the most favorable psychological effects from the public reporting of our progress in the development of atomic weapons, guided missiles, and biological, radiological and chemical weapons.

a. To list for the National Security Council the principles which should guide high-level statements on such weapons.

b. To establish a procedure for the release of weapons information in ways which will produce the most desirable psychological effect at home and abroad.

Objectives

2. Taking into account the requirements of security, to make sure that information on certain weapons is formulated and released in such a way as to:

a. Produce a deterrent effect on Soviet orbit leadership (this must be done in ways which will not interfere with attainment of objective b, below).

b. Strengthen confidence and hope in the free world abroad.

c. Create a sound understanding of the capabilities and limitations of those weapons in the United States.

Procedure

3. As a matter of urgency, the committee should formulate principles for public reporting concerning the weapons referred to in paragraph 1

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above. In this context it should draw up as a matter of urgency a concise paper which the NSC may issue for the guidance of government spokesmen.

In submitting its report, the committee should recommend a mechanism for periodic revision as necessary of the papers referred to above.

Composition

4. Committee members, in addition to the chairman, will be designated from the following departments and agencies:

a. The White House Staff

b. The Psychological Strategy Board

c. The Department of State

d. Central Intelligence Agency

e. The Atomic Energy Commission

f. The Federal Civil Defense Administration.

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